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February 19, 2023

To the Honorable Members of the Finance, Revenue and Bonding Committee,

**I oppose H.B. 5653.**

Legal gun owners in CT already pay 6.35% CT sales tax and 11% Federal excise tax on ammunition. An additional tax of 10% to 15% will make it more difficult for people who are already struggling in this economic environment to afford to own and train properly with guns and ammunition whether for sport or for self-defense, which is our right as Americans under the provisions of the Second Amendment to the US Constitution and Article 1 Section 15 of the CT Constitution. In an era of increased crime against law-abiding citizens, it is cruel and irresponsible of the State of CT (as a result of the mistaken lenient policies of prosecutors and judges and who release criminals without bail nor penalties to commit more crimes and worsened in the aftermath of the Police accountability Law) to infringe on law-abiding citizens' right to defend themselves, their families and their property.

H.B. 5653 in effect, penalizes law-abiding, responsible gun owners for the actions of criminals who never follow our laws. To reduce gun violence then allow the law enforcement authorities to enforce the very strict gun laws that already exist in Connecticut and charge CT judges to incarcerate and penalize those criminals. Do not blame and punish the law-abiding, responsible citizens who are gun owners.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Greenwich, CT.